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TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [TW](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: U.S.-CHINA-TAIWAN RELATIONS

A) "The United States Should Fully Understand [Taiwan Senior Presidential Advisor] K.M. Koo's Outspoken Statements and Adhere to Its Commitments to the Taiwan People - Deeply Democratized Taiwan Has Developed New Public Opinion and National Identity; the United States Must Not Use a Double Standard to Stop Taiwan from Becoming a Normal Country"

The pro-independence "Taiwan Daily" editorialized (10/6):

". What is noteworthy is that in Koo's article, he pointed out that while the United States is asking Taiwan to spend a huge amount of money on weapons' purchases, it is also telling the Taiwanese that they cannot have their own country, their own constitution, their own national anthem, or even a flag of their own choosing. This is a strongly self-contradictory approach. Indeed, if the Taiwanese people cannot identify with a normal country, for whom are they buying so such weaponry and against whom are they fighting? Also, the same article pointed out that the United States' adherence to the One-China policy will only reinforce the Communist dictators' conviction that their view of Taiwan is the correct one and that they have the inalienable right to decide Taiwan's future. [What the United States is doing] is to tempt China to damage the peace across the Taiwan Strait.

"We hope [our] American friends can understand with their hearts the outspoken statements made by an old warrior who has dedicated decades of his life to Taiwan and urge the U.S. government to adhere to its commitments to democratic and free Taiwan."

B) "[Taiwan Senior Presidential Advisor] K.M. Koo's Advertisement Displeases the United States"

Washington correspondent Norman Fu said in the "Washington Outlook" column of the centrist, pro-status quo "China Times" (10/6):

". The Bush administration's cross-Strait policy is that neither side (meaning Taipei and Beijing) should alter the status quo unilaterally. What is not spoken but has been fully understood by everyone is that neither can both sides of the Taiwan Strait ask the United States to change the status quo - namely, to alter or renounce Washington's longstanding One-China policy.

"[Beijing's Foreign Minister] Lee Zhaoxing told [Secretary of State Colin] Powell to his face recently that Washington should not let its domestic law override an international commitment. The domestic law that Lee referred to is the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA). It is surprising to see that Koo echoed Lee by pointing out that TRA is a domestic law, under which Taiwan has neither rights nor any obligations. Has Koo forgotten that Taiwan, under the TRA, enjoys the right of being provided with defensive weapons from the United States? It is a fact that the TRA is a domestic law of the United States. But Koo is probably the first Taiwanese person to directly point out that the TRA is a domestic law made in the interests of the United States. Koo's tone was so severe that it almost sounded equal to his displeasure with the United States' One-China policy. This is really weird logic - given Koo's life-long efforts dedicated to the push for Taiwan independence, he is not supposed to betray his belief and echo the 'communists' across the Taiwan Strait!"

C) "Taiwan Must Not Overlook the United States' Unpleasant but Honest Advice"

Washington correspondent Nadia Tsao said in the pro-independence "Liberty Times" (10/6):

"Even though Deputy Undersecretary of Defense Richard Lawless' remarks [at a U.S.-Taiwan defense industry meeting in Arizona on Taiwan's arms procurements]

sounded a little bit unpleasant, they are vital to Taiwan's problems. .

"The United States is the only country in the world that is willing to sell advanced weapons to Taiwan. Naturally, the price tag offered by Washington for the weapons it wants to sell displeases Taiwan and makes it feel that it is being controlled by others, and it is understandable that the Legislative Yuan wants to haggle over the price. . Lawless' speech actually did not sound fresh to Taiwan. What's new is that it is the Americans who are reminding us of that the matter concerns Taiwan's [very] existence."

D) "Chen Has an Historic Opportunity"

The pro-independence, English-language "Taipei Times" noted in an editorial (10/6):

"On Sunday President Chen Shui-bian announced that he would deliver an important speech on cross-Strait relations on Double Ten Day. .

"Chen should use this opportunity to clarify some of the most urgent issues facing this nation.

"First, he must clearly and definitely declare Taiwan an independent sovereign state. . Second, Chen needs to reiterate his determination to carry out constitutional reform. Though most people in this country want a new constitution, some people - including U.S. officials - still have concerns. . Third, Chen should make it clear that cross-strait peace must be built upon a military balance of power. Since Taiwan doesn't want to annex Chinese territory but Beijing has repeatedly stressed its aim of annexing Taiwan, the people here cannot but ask the government to strength national defense and make necessary preparations. .

"Finally, Chen should make clear to Beijing and the international community that according to official Chinese statistics, as of the end of last year Taiwanese businesspeople had invested US\$72.3 billion in China, making it that country's largest foreign investor. .

"This being the case, there is no reason why China should wish for Taiwan to downgrade itself into a provincial government. Conducting commerce under the 'one China' principle would be political suicide. It is necessary for Beijing to deal rationally with the issue of cross-strait commerce. ."

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